

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

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Claim 1. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism adapted to~~ releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages  
engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said  
body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact  
spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into  
[[said]] the stratum corneum; and

wherein said body and piston are adapted to be releasably engaged by the use of a single  
hand.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the  
stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[;]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against  
the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said  
piston out of said first end of said body[[;]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said  
piston is further disposed within said body;

9 a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages  
engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said  
body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact  
spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into  
[[said]] the stratum corneum; and

wherein [[the]] said latching mechanism includes interengaging latch members disposed  
on [[the]] said body and piston.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the  
stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[;]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against  
the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism adapted to~~ releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum; and

a flexible finger disposed on said body and a stop disposed on said piston, wherein said flexible finger and said stop comprise said interengaging latch members.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism adapted to~~ releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum[[]; and]],

wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum[[:]].

wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism[[:]], and wherein said latching mechanism and said piston releasing mechanism are adapted to allow one handed operation of each mechanism.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]].

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably ~~engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum; and

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[; and]], wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[;],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[;], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

5 a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism adapted to releasably engages~~ engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum; and

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[; and]], wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and

a hold down spring disposed between [[the]] said body and [[the]] said cap for resisting the activation of [[the]] said release mechanism until said hold down spring has been sufficiently energized such that said hold down spring exerts a predetermined hold down force.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[;],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum;

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating [[the]] said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved [[onto]] on said body[[: and]], wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism; and

a lock mechanism for preventing movement of said cap relative to said body whereby activation of [[the]] said release mechanism is prevented.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end[[:]],

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to [[the]] said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body[[:]], wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body;

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into [[said]] the stratum corneum;

a cap movably mounted on said body for activating ~~[[the]]~~ said releasing mechanism when said cap is moved ~~[[onto]]~~ on said body~~[[; and]]~~, wherein said releasing mechanism is adapted to release said piston after a force is exerted upon said releasing mechanism;

a lock mechanism for preventing movement of said cap relative to said body whereby activation of ~~[[the]]~~ said release mechanism is prevented; and

an indicator for indicating when said cap is in said locked position.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end ~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into ~~[[said]]~~ the stratum corneum~~[[; and]]~~,

wherein said latching mechanism automatically locks said piston in a cocked position with respect to said body when said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end ~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into ~~[[said]]~~ the stratum corneum~~[[; and]]~~.

wherein said piston includes an application surface having a shape and size ~~which provides for an effective application of the specific patch~~ that is adapted to cooperate with the specific penetrating member to be impacted.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end~~[[;]]~~,

said first end being adapted to receive the penetrating member;

a piston slidably disposed within said body for impacting the penetrating member against the stratum corneum~~[[;]]~~, said piston including an application surface having a shape selected from the group consisting of a convex shape, a substantially planar shape and a shape configured to mate with a predetermined body surface site;

an impact spring adapted to provide an impact force to ~~[[the]]~~ said piston and bias said piston out of said first end of said body~~[[;]]~~, wherein said impact spring is energized when said piston is further disposed within said body;

a latching mechanism ~~wherein said latching mechanism~~ adapted to releasably engages engage said piston with said body after said piston has been sufficiently disposed within said body; and

a releasing mechanism for disengaging said latching mechanism whereby said impact spring impacts said piston against the penetrating member forcing the penetrating member into said stratum corneum~~[[;]]~~

~~said piston further includes an application surface having a shape and size which provides for an effective application of the specific patch to be impacted; and~~



~~wherein said application surface has a shape selected from the group consisting of a convex shape, a substantially planar shape and a shape configured to mate with a predetermined body surface site.~~

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, ~~the device~~ comprising:

a device body;

a piston mounted within the device body, ~~[[the]]~~ said piston having a microblade array applying surface;

an impact spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade;

a cap movably mounted on ~~[[the]]~~ said device body;

a hold down spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said cap;

a latching mechanism for locking ~~[[the]]~~ said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and piston together; and

a piston release for releasing ~~[[the]]~~ said piston from ~~[[the]]~~ said cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with ~~[[the]]~~ said microblade array when ~~[[the]]~~ said hold down spring is compressed.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, ~~the device~~ comprising:

a device body;

a piston mounted within the device body, ~~[[the]]~~ said piston having a microblade array applying surface;

an impact spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said piston to impact the stratum corneum with the microblade;

a cap movably mounted on ~~[[the]]~~ said device body;

a hold down spring acting between ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and ~~[[the]]~~ said cap;

a latching mechanism for locking ~~[[the]]~~ said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing ~~[[the]]~~ said device body and piston together; and

a piston release ~~comprising a release finger~~ for releasing ~~[[the]]~~ said piston from ~~[[the]]~~ said cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with ~~[[the]]~~ said microblade array when ~~[[the]]~~ said hold down spring is compressed, said piston release comprising a release finger.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A device for impacting a microblade array against the stratum corneum, ~~the device~~ comprising:

a device body;

a piston mounted within [[the]] said device body, [[the]] said piston having a microblade array applying surface;

an impact spring acting between [[the]] said device body and [[the]] said piston to impact the stratum corneum with [[the]] said microblade array;

a cap movably mounted on [[the]] said device body;

a hold down spring acting between [[the]] said device body and [[the]] said cap, said hold down spring being adapted to resist the activation of [[the]] said piston release until a predetermined hold down force is reached;

a latching mechanism for locking [[the]] said piston in a cocked position with one hand by compressing [[the]] said device body and said piston together; and

a piston release for releasing [[the]] said piston from [[the]] said cocked position to impact the stratum corneum with [[the]] said microblade array when [[the]] said hold down spring is compressed.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;

moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position with respect to [[a]] said device body; and

locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, whereby [[the]] said device can be cocked and locked using only one hand.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;

moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position by moving [[the]] said piston along the axis of [[the]] said device body; and


locking said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, wherein the device can be cocked and locked using only one hand.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:  
providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;  
moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position with respect to [[a]] said device body; and  
locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, whereby [[the]] said device can be cocked and automatically locked using only one hand.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method of cocking a device for impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:  
providing an impacting device having a device body and a piston;  
moving [[a]] said piston to a cocked position with respect to [[a]] said device body; and  
locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position, whereby [[the]] said device can be cocked and manually locked using only one hand.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A method of impacting a penetrating member against the stratum corneum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an impacting device having a device body, a piston, and an impact spring;  
cocking [[the]] said impacting device using only one hand by moving [[the]] said piston and [[the]] said device body together to a cocked position and locking [[the]] said piston in [[the]] said cocked position;

 providing a penetrating member;  
mounting said penetrating member on said piston; and  
releasing said piston to impact the penetrating member against the stratum corneum.

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Applicants accordingly respectfully request examination and consideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRANCIS LAW GROUP

By: 

Ralph C. Francis  
Reg. No. 38,884

Dated: February 12, 2004  
1808 Santa Clara Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501  
Tel: (510) 769-9800